

This is important testimony, and so far as it goes, seems to favor the presumption that young birds must learn their songs through association with older members of their own species. Yet before this can be assumed as satisfactorily proven, and that the characteristic songs of birds are not innate, further experiments of like nature, and with other species, are desirable. It is a field of great interest and well worthy of careful and persistent investigation. — J. A. A.

Barlow's List of the Land Birds of Placerville, California.¹—The area to which the present paper relates appears to be a narrow belt of country along the old Lake Tahoe stage road, from Placerville to Tallac, 62 miles from Placerville and on the eastern slope of the Sierra. Placerville is situated at an altitude of 1800 feet, the route thence rising for the next 50 miles to Summit, with an altitude of 7000 feet, and thence 12 miles down the eastern slope to Tallac at an altitude of 6200 feet. The first eight pages of this very interesting and important paper contain a general description of the country through which the route passes, with numerous half-tone illustrations from photographs, an account of the 'life zones' of the region, and of the recent explorations on which the paper is based, followed by an extensively annotated list of the land birds, numbering about 130 species.

Placerville is situated at "the lower limit of the Transition zone, which extends up to about 5000 feet"; this is followed by the Canadian zone, extending from 5000 feet up to 7500, with the Hudsonian above, extending "from about 8000 feet upward on the slopes of the higher peaks." Mention is made of the characteristic birds and trees of these several zones.

The list is based on observations made by various observers during the breeding season for the last nine years, notably upon those of Mr. W. W. Price, who "made his first investigations in the summer of 1893 and has since devoted three months of each year to the exploration of the country contiguous to the stage road. His twenty-seven months' experience has made him familiar with even the more remote portions of the region so that the addition of his notes [included in brackets and designated by the initials 'W. W. P.'] to the present list insures its reasonable completeness." Mr. Barlow went over the entire route in 1901, and had previously spent short periods, at various points, in company with other observers, to whom he acknowledges valued assistance. These include Messrs. W. H. Osgood, R. H. Beck, L. E. Taylor, H. W. Carriger, John M. Welch, Wm. L. Anderson, and others. The list thus naturally deals

¹ A List of the Land Birds of Placerville-Lake Tahoe Stage Road. Central Sierra Nevada Mountains, Cal. By Chester Barlow. With Supplementary Notes by W. W. Price. The Condor, Vol. III, No. 6, pp. 151-184, Nov. 16, 1901.

with only the summer birds of the region, leaving unrecorded many of the winter visitants, while "no attempt has been made to list the water birds."

The region here treated is faunally one of great interest, and the information thus brought together adds greatly to our knowledge of the vertical range of a large number of species in the Central Sierra region of California. The paper also includes a large amount of new information respecting the nesting habits of many previously little-known birds, and contains also numerous photographic illustrations of their nests and eggs.—J. A. A.

Pearson's 'Stories of Bird Life.'¹—Professor Pearson's attractive little book, while intended for general reading, "is especially designed for use in schools as a supplementary reader, beginning with the fourth grade." It consists of twenty chapters or 'stories', written in a popular vein and appropriately illustrated, with two appendices, the first giving descriptions of the 27 birds mentioned more or less prominently in the 'stories', and the second containing 'Suggestions for Bird Study', but there is no index nor list of illustrations. The following selection of titles indicates the scope and general character of the stories: 'The Arredondo Sparrow Hawk,' 'Our Chimney Dwellers,' 'The Childhood of Bib-Neck,' 'Robin Redbreast,' 'An Old Barred Owl,' 'The Birds of Cobb's Island, Virginia,' 'A Pair of Eagles,' 'Bird Key,' 'The Mocking Bird,' 'A Bobwhite Family,' 'The city of the Longlegs,' 'A Quartet of Woodland Drummers,' etc. The author tells us: "These stories are not fanciful, but are true to bird life. The Arredondo Sparrow Hawk, Ruffle-Breast and Socrates were particular birds well known to others as to me. In the case of the Bob-white family, Bib-neck, the Plover, I have combined into the lives of a few birds incidents I have known to occur to many. The accounts of visits to birds' nests, bird colonies and the like are given as they occurred."

Prof. Pearson is an earnest bird lover and a sympathetic and entertaining writer, and his 'stories' tend not only to instruct, but to inspire an intelligent appreciation of the economic value, as well as the aesthetic interest, of birds to man. The book is attractively printed in large type, and merits a hearty welcome to the list of popular bird books.—J. A. A.

Sharpe's 'Hand List of the Genera and Species of Birds,' Volume III.²—Volume III of this great work follows with commendable prompt-

¹ Stories of Bird Life | By | J. Gilbert Pearson | Professor of Biology and Geology in the State Normal and Industrial College, | Greensboro, North Carolina | [Design] With Illustrations by and under the Supervision | of | John L. Ridgway | — | Richmond | B. F. Johnson Publishing Company | 1901—12mo, cloth, pp. 1-236, colored frontispiece, 7 half-tone plates, and numerous illustrations. Price, 60 cents.

² London, 1901, 8vo, pp. i-xii + 1-367.